

Message Text

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63

ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

AID-05 EB-07 IGA-02 TRSE-00 (ISO) R

DRAFTED BY NEA:SSOBER; NEA/ARP:COCECIL:AFJ

APPROVED BY NEA:SSOBER

COE:COL.WCBURNS (SUBS)

DOD/ISA:JNOYES

NEA/ARP:FMDICKMAN

TREAS/OSSA:BONNIE POUNDS

----- 024959

R 250158Z JAN 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

INFO AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: ECRE, EAID, MILI, SA

SUBJECT: CHANNEL FOR RECEIPT OF REQUESTS FOR CORPS OF
ENGINEERS ASSISTANCE

EMBASSY PASS USREP/JECOR

REF: TREASURY OSAA 47 (NOTAL)

1. EMBASSY MAY NOTE THAT SUGGESTED AGENDA FOR UPCOMING
JEC TALKS (REFTEL) DOES NOT INCLUDE SUBJECT OF POSSIBLE
CORPS OF ENGINEERS ASSISTANCE TO MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS
AND HOUSING, THOUGH THIS SUBJECT HAS BEEN RAISED WITHIN
JEC CONTEXT ON EARLIER OCCASION. THIS OMISSION WAS
INTENTIONAL AND REFLECTS A DESIRE TO RETURN TO PREVIOUSLY-
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ESTABLISHED CHANNELS FOR COE REQUESTS.

2. NORMAL CHANNEL FOR PAST SAUDI REQUESTS FOR COE ASSISTANCE, WHETHER IN THE MILITARY OR CIVILIAN SECTORS, HAS BEEN A LETTER FROM A SAG MINISTER TO THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR. AFTER CONSULTATIONS WITH COE AND, IF NECESSARY, WITH SAG TO DETERMINE SCOPE AND DURATION OF ASSISTANCE REQUIRED, EMBASSY HAS TRANSMITTED REQUEST SIMULTANEOUSLY TO DOD AND STATE FOR POLICY DECISION. THIS CHANNEL HAS EFFECTIVELY SERVED OUR MUTUAL PURPOSE IN

MEETING SAUDI DESIRES WITHIN LIMITATIONS OF COE CAPABILITIES.

3. IN RECENT MONTHS, SOME APPROACHES BY SAUDIS FOR PARTICIPATION BY COE IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES HAVE BEEN ADDRESSED TO JOINT ECONOMIC COMMISSION, E.G., COE INVOLVEMENT IN CONSTRUCTION OF VOCATIONAL TRAINING CENTERS. WE BELIEVE NORMAL CHANNEL OF REQUEST BY SAG MINISTER DIRECT TO AMERICAN AMBASSADOR IS PREFERABLE AND WISH IT TO BE USED. IF THE REQUEST IS FOR COE ASSISTANCE IN THE AREA RELATED TO A JOINT COMMISSION PROJECT, IT WILL BE NECESSARY OF COURSE TO COORDINATE WITH THE JOINT COMMISSION. RELEVANT SAUDI AGENCIES SHOULD BE INFORMED, AS OCCASION ARISES, THAT THIS CHANNEL HAS WORKED WELL OVER A PERIOD OF YEARS AND SHOULD BE ENTIRELY ADEQUATE BEARING IN MIND LONG AND SUCCESSFUL HISTORY OF COE PROGRAMS IN SAUDI ARABIA. FYI: WE ARE PREPARING CIRCULAR 175 REQUEST FOR AUTHORITY FOR EMBASSY TO NEGOTIATE AN AMENDMENT TO THE 1965 COE AGREEMENT WHICH WOULD PERMIT COE ASSISTANCE TO THE SAG IN CIVILIAN FIELDS. WE RECOGNIZE URGENCY SAG ATTACHES TO REQUEST FOR A CORPS SURVEY OF THE PUBLIC WORKS AND HOUSING MINISTRY (JIDDA 0077 AND PREVIOUS) AND WILL MOVE AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE ON THIS. END FYI. SHOULD SAUDIS RAISE THIS QUESTION IN COURSE OF DISCUSSING AGENDA FOR COMING JEC MEETING, THEY SHOULD BE INFORMED THAT

EMBASSY WILL BE PURSUING THIS MATTER WITH SAG AUTHORITIES IN THE NEAR FUTURE. INGERSOLL

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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To: JIDDA
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